ong, other products, a natural product of cellways of Staphylococus aureaus bacterium; and

(b) whether any work in this regard is under way in our research and development laboratories; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Products from the cell walls of Staphyllocuccus aureaus are not among the commonly used agents for boosting immune system. Based on available information, there may be just one such product, of Japanese manufacture.

(b) Yes, Sir; a number of bacterial cell-wall-constituents are under study at the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi and Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow for their properties as enhancers of immune response. These include cellwall constituents as muramyldipeptide (MDP) and its derivatives and cellwall constituents form certain gram negative bacteria. The work, however, is still in a research and development stage.

Number of NCC officers

3934. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the authorised number of Officers in Senior, Junior and Girls Divisions of NCC, separately;

(b) what is the number of Officers at present functioning in the sub-units of Senior, Junior and Girls Divisions of NCC, separately; and

(c) what are the names and ranks of the Officers, alongwith the locations the sub-units who are at present functioning in Senio , Junior and Girls Divisions of NCC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The authorised and actual strength of the NCC Part-time Officers as on 31st December, 1986 was as under:—

	Authorised	Actual
Sr. Division . .	3871	2999
Jr. Division . .	6690	5715
Girls Division .	1443	1038

In addition, regular officers of the Armed Forces and NCC Whole-time Officers are also posted to the NCC Officers Units. These officers are, however, not earmarked for any particular division of the NCC. At present, there are 1636 such officers as against their authorised strength of 1786.

(c) There are 756 units of the NCC in the country. The sub-units of the NCC are located in various colleges and schools which number over 10,000. Compilation of information regarding names and ranks of the officers posted to various sub-units throughout the country would require a lot of time and effort and would be difficult to furnish immediately.

Losses due to shifting of thorium plant from Maharashtra

3935. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 602 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th July, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shifting of the thorium plant from Maharashtra to Orissa would result in the loss of Rs. 140 crores, which have been invested in the plant and research and development facilities; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that a committee was appointed in this connection under the Chairmanship of Dr. Shah?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Transfer of local Assamese Officers from State Bank of India Guwahati

3936. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently as many as 23 Assamese officers have been transferred from the Head Office of the State Bank of India, Guwahati to other States;

(b) if so, what are the reasons behind this large-scale transfer of local officers; and

(c) whether it is an isolated case for Assamese officers or an all India policy carried out in other States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) State Bank of India has reported that the total number of Assamese Officers identified for transfer to other States in North-Eastern Region from the different branches/offices in the state of Assam is seventeen (17) out of which only two (2) officers are from Head Office. The Bank has also reported that the transfers are effected in terms of Bank's policy on transfer and as more officers are available in Assam as compared to other six States served by the Circle, it becomes necessary to transfer Assamese Officers to other States. Further these officers are transferred so that the bank can bring back other Assamese Officers to Assam who have completed their tenure in other States.

The Bank has stated that this is as ongoing process and not an isolated case of transfer of Assamese Officers. These transfers have been done in accordance with the Transfer Policy in vogue in the Circle which has been formulated on the basis of all-India norms. The total number of officers involved under this particular transfer chain is stated to be thirty-three (33), out of which seventeen (17) are Assamese Officers.

Purchases of defence equipments through Shri L. M. Thapar

3937. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri L.M. Thapar, who is involved in FERA violations, has been instrumental in providing two trucks supplied by Saab-Scania A.B. for 155 MM FH-77B Howitzer, for whom Shri Thaper is working as agent or consultant, according to information given by in-house booklet of Greaves Group of companies, chaired by Shri Thapar;

(b) whether it is a fact that Greaves Cotton Limited, chaired by Shri Thapar, or the companies connected with Shri Thapar House have been instrumental in providing 75 per cent of imported defence equipment; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that purchases through Thapar Group of companies during last three years run above Rs. 10,000 crores?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Government have concluded a contract with M|s Bofors for supply of the complete 155 mm Field Howitzer System including vehicles. This contract has been negotiated directly with M|s Bofors.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Computers using Indian languages

3938. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether computers, capable of using Indian languages in their respective scripts, have been developed; and

(b) if so, whether multilangauge keyboards also have been evolved?